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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
08/480, 461	06/07/95	MICHELSON	G P-12550-(DIV)
		EXAMINER	

LEWIS ANTEN
THE LAW OFFICES OF LEWIS ANTEN
SUITE 411
16830 VENTURA BOULEVARD
ENCINO CA 91436

QM12/0902

BROWN, M PAPER NUMBER

3764
DATE MAILED:

09/02/99

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/11/95

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 90 and 95-140 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) 90 and 140 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 Claim(s) 95-101, 108-113, 116-121, 124-127, 129-130, 132-137 and 139 is/are rejected.
 Claim(s) 102-107, 114-115, 122-123, 128, 131 and 138 is/are objected to.
 Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
 The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
 The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
 The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 received.
 received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
 Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
 Interview Summary, PTO-413
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES-

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 95-101, 108-113, 116-121, 124-127, 129-130, 132-136 and 139 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Brantigan.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 137 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brantigan in view of Goble.

Brantigan discloses in figures 1-4 a spinal distractor, substantially as claimed. However, Brantigan does not disclose a tap used to thread the openings in the vertebrae. Goble teaches in

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figure 6 a tap 41. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made that the tap as taught by Goble could be substituted for a self tapping screw as disclosed by Brantigan because either could be used to tap a thread opening in a vertebrae.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 102-107, 114-115, 122-123, 128, 131 and 138 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 95-101, 108-113, 116-121, 124-127, 129-130, 132-137 and 139 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Michael Brown at telephone number (703) 308-2682.

M. Brown
30 August 1999



MICHAEL A. BROWN
PRIMARY EXAMINER